

SOURCES OF LOVE AND HATE

383

have the natural privilege of being allowed to play and to enjoy unlimited pleasure.

At the time of going to press, Ursula's behaviour is happy and her development satisfactory, showing certain minor neurotic symptoms in the way the majority of children do, but with an unusual freedom and confidence in her mother and the world in general.

Doubtless many of my readers will be impressed by the unusual extent to which Ursula's mother and father gave her open information, and allowed her to talk out her questions and phantasies about their sexual life and the origin of babies. It may occur to some readers who are not sympathetic to this mode of education that Ursula's difficulties might be attributed to this rather unusual degree of knowledge. Such a view would, however, be quite unwarranted, as other portions of my material will plainly show. Emotional difficulties much greater than those of Ursula may arise in any child, and are even more likely to arise in those children who are not given honest information or are told lies and prevarications. It is not, however, the actual *information* that makes the difference, since Ursula obviously retains many of her infantile theories about parental intercourse, even though she has been told so much. It is rather the attitude of love and confidence which the parents show and are able to foster in the child that gives the special value of this method. Ursula will not have the cause for real distrust of her parents which so many

children have ; and this open confidence is a great aid to a child in dealing with the anxieties arising from unconscious phantasies. Such a frank relation between parents and children will by no means solve all neurotic difficulties, nor will it altogether obviate them. But it does help to build up a solid and lasting friendliness and mutual respect between parent and child, which are of inestimable value in themselves ; and it does mean that the world of biological interests is kept open to the child's inquiries.